

DOC HASTINGS

4TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER



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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

November 23, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On November 22, 2006, the United States and Colombia signed the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. As we pass the three year anniversary of this event, we request that you allow an up or down vote on this important trade agreement without further delay.

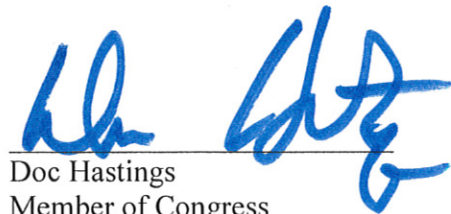
For almost two decades, more than 90 percent of Colombian products have enjoyed open and duty-free access to American markets. At the same time, U.S. exports to Colombia face steep tariffs as high as 20 percent. Additional policies, such as duties applied on freight and insurance charges, create even higher barriers for U.S. products entering the Colombian market. This inequity has resulted in lost opportunities for American businesses, and lost jobs for Americans.

The Institute for International Economics estimates that implementation of the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement would cause the value of U.S. exports to Colombia to increase by 44 percent. With our unemployment rate at a 26-year high, lowering these trade barriers will help U.S. businesses create new jobs at a time when Americans need them the most – without spending more taxpayer money.

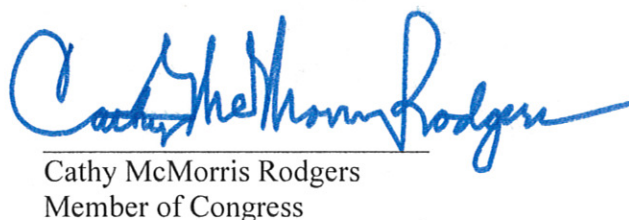
Enactment of this agreement in a timely manner is critical. Colombia currently has a trade agreement pending with the Canadian Parliament, and they are in negotiations with the European Union. Failure to pass this trade agreement soon will not only result in the loss of billions of dollars in new exports for American businesses and the resulting jobs that would be created, but it would also jeopardize the U.S.'s current market share in Colombia, which is the third largest importer of American goods in South America.

At a time when our economy is struggling to recover, it is disappointing that Congress has not had the opportunity to vote on an agreement that levels the playing field with Colombia and brings billions of dollars in new revenue to American families and businesses. We request that you allow a vote on legislation to enact the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement before the House of Representatives.

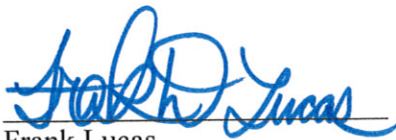
Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



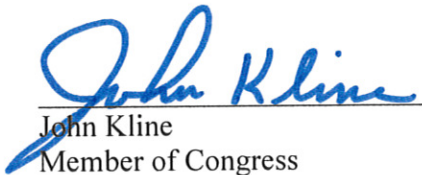
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



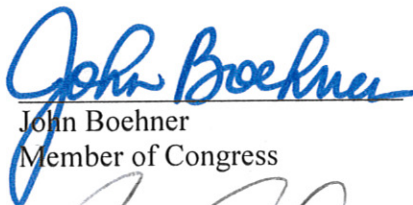
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



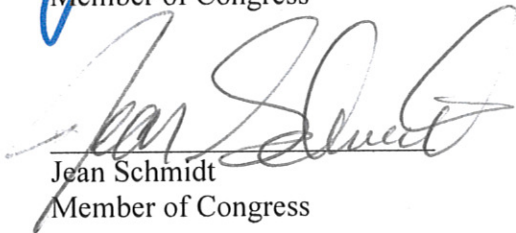
Mike Pence
Member of Congress



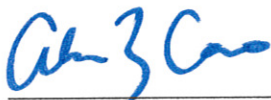
John Kline
Member of Congress



John Boehner
Member of Congress



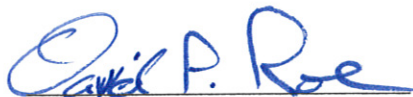
Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress



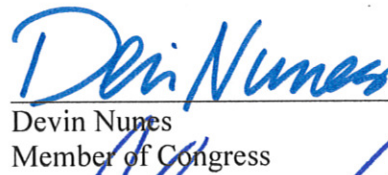
David P. Roe
Member of Congress



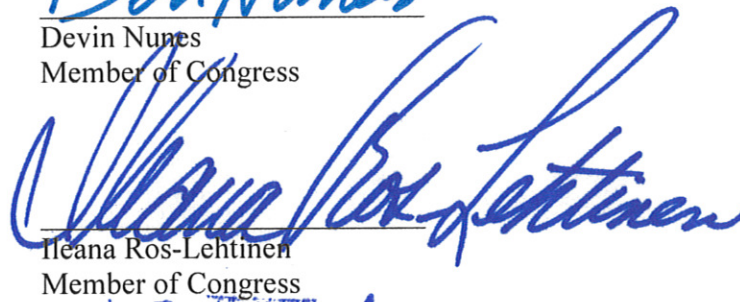
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Howard "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress



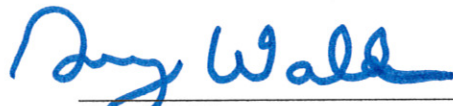
Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



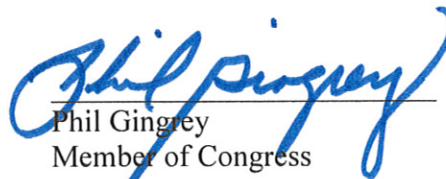
Illeana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



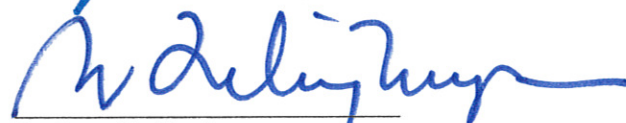
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Rodney Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



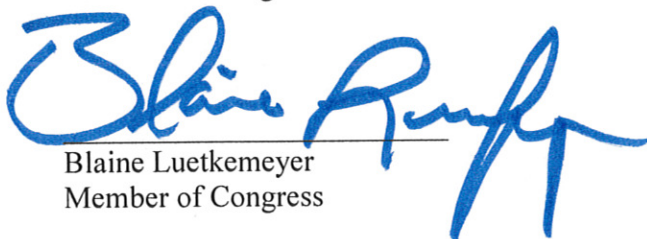
Gary G. Miller
Member of Congress



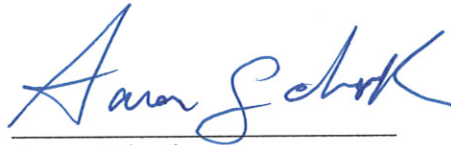
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Tim Johnson
Member of Congress



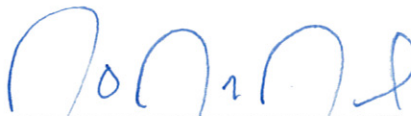
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



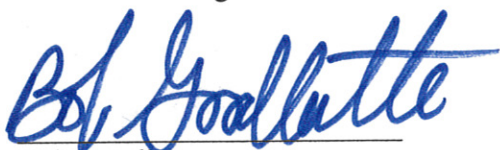
Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



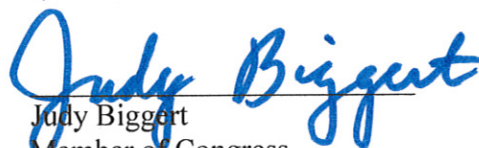
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Judy Biggert
Member of Congress



Connie Mack
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



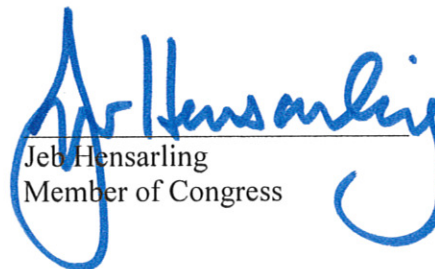
Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Pete Olson
Member of Congress